

Redpolls were seen at P.I.S.P., Nov. 20–25 (DD) and three were seen at Pymatuning S.P., Nov. 23 (RFL). There was a very heavy flight of Am. Goldfinches, with 250 seen at McConnell's Mills, PA Nov. 2 (LW). At A.F.M.O. the flyover count of goldfinches was a record-high 4788 (RB). Very early Pine Siskins were at *Indiana*, PA Aug. 23 (CK), A.F.M.O., Aug. 13 (GAH), and *Elk*, PA Sept. 13 (LC). At the end of October and through November siskins were at almost every reporting location, although never in large numbers. The Evening Grosbeak flight was the best in several years. One was seen at A.F.M.O. in early September (*vide* GAH) and starting in early November small flocks began to turn up. Distribution was spotty, and they did not remain for any length of time in any given location.

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# Western Great Lakes Region

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August was hot and humid, especially in Michigan and Wisconsin. In the latter state the abnormally dry conditions that prevailed during the summer abruptly ended. By the end of the month much of Wisconsin had recorded rain totals of seven–fourteen inches. For Michigan the heavy rainfall was more localized, *i.e.* the southeastern section, resulting in flooding of prime shorebird habitat. September was considerably drier, with temperatures proving more variable. October temperatures were generally mild. However, in Wisconsin a major cold front passed through during mid-month. This caused a spectacular hawk flight for several days along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Substantial rain fell during the last half of October, continuing into the first week of November. Many areas in Wisconsin had five–ten inches of additional rainfall during this period. Almost overnight the weather changed from Indian Summer to winter. Unusually cold temperatures pre-



vailed for the duration of the month accompanied by windy conditions, with snowfall beginning to accumulate. Many cities in the Region had one of the colder Novembers on record.

Many observers commented on the quietness of the migration. There were localized concentrations of waterfowl, but not the spectacular numbers of last fall. The early November freeze-up forced most of the waterfowl to migrate earlier than normal. The shorebird migration was uneventful Regionwide. Some of this was caused by the excessive August rains. Minnesota had good number of northern owls appearing mainly in November, a precursor to a December invasion. A few filtered into the other two states. The passerine migration was variable. Generally observers felt it was below average, although there were some exceptions scattered throughout the Region. Winter finches appeared this autumn, with several species having good movements, especially in the northern areas. Some species were even appearing in the southern part of the Region.

Considerably fewer rarities were found this autumn as compared to last year. Both Minnesota and Michigan had five headliners. For Minnesota, the major find was its first Glaucous-winged Gull. Oddly, in Michigan all five finds came within a few days during late October. Wisconsin had three headliners, with the best, a first Western Gull, being qualified (*see summary*). In addition, there were two other quality birds within the state, a first state Scott's Oriole, and about the third "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee. However, while both appeared during the autumn, word did not get out or positive identification made until early January! Details for both will appear in the winter summary.

Finally, a request to all Regional observers/contributors. To ensure a quality report that meets *Field Notes* deadlines, it is imperative that your observations be received by your state's compiler *no later than two weeks after the season's conclusion*. This will give them time to prepare their summary and forward it to the Regional editor by the month's conclusion.

Abbreviations: M.W.S. (*Muskegon Waste-water System, Muskegon Co., MI*); P.M.S.G.A. (*Pt. Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe Co., MI*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, MI*).

### Loons to Ibises

Single Red-throated Loons were found in *St. Louis*, MN Oct. 6 (*fide* KE) and *Oconto*, WI Nov. 12 (J&KS). Even the W.P.B.O. recorded about 150 fewer indi-

viduals than last autumn, with 225 tallied between Aug. 17–Nov. 14. Four Pacific Loons were located in Minnesota, including two in *St. Louis* Sept. 21–Oct. 28 (m.ob.) and singles in *Anoka* Oct. 10 (KB) and *Winona* Oct. 17 (RJ). A "significant" Com. Loon flight passed by Harrington Beach S.P., WI Nov. 3 (TU). At W.P.B.O., 3462 were counted during the season. Minnesota's 4th **Yellow-billed Loon** record concluded on a sad note. Originally discovered by Eckert Nov. 11 on Mille Lacs L., it was enjoyed by other birders for 2 days. On Nov. 13, Bardon and Dains arrived early, finally locating the bird farther up the lake, due to sheet ice formation. It soon took flight, almost immediately crashing onto the ice. The loon commenced flopping, attempting to make its way back to open water, when a Bald Eagle landed on and proceeded to kill it. A Horned Grebe at Green Bay Sept. 13–16 was early (JH, DT). Verch had 145 at Ashland, WI Oct. 3. The peak Red-necked Grebe flight was 1156 Aug. 21 at W.P.B.O. One in *Kalamazoo*, MI Nov. 13 was late (RS). Eared Grebes were present at M.W.S. between Aug. 13–Nov. 5, with a maximum of 11 Sept. 4 (JR, JU), a local record. In Wisconsin, single birds were seen at Collins Marsh Oct. 2 (DT) and in *Kewaunee* Oct. 23 (JR). Western Grebes were found in Wisconsin at Superior's Wisconsin Pt., Sept. 16 (RJo *et al.*) and Harrington Beach S.P., Oct. 18 (BG). Michigan had one in *Hillsdale* Nov. 13 (JRe). Single Clark's Grebes were seen in Minnesota's Agassiz N.W.R. in early August and in *Yellow Medicine* Aug. 19 (KE *et al.*). American White Pelicans were found at 9 Wisconsin sites, with maximum numbers including 16 at Rush L., >20 at Green Bay, and 90 near La Crosse. Of interest was an individual near Wausau Oct. 3 that persisted in taking "refuge" among duck hunter's decoys. Persistent efforts by the hunter could not induce it to leave. Michigan had single birds at 3 sites. Impressive flights (1000s) of Double-crested Cormorants were noted in several Wisconsin and Michigan sites. Individuals were again attempting to winter at Green Bay and Menasha, WI. An adrenaline stimulant to Michigan birders was a **Magnificent Frigatebird** discovered at Metrobeach Metropark that actually remained for several days Oct. 26–28. This enabled many to enjoy this rarity, the 5th state record.

In Michigan four Snowy Egrets were at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 1 (TW, ES), with five at the Erie Marsh Preserve Aug. 19–26 (CP, TW). At Wisconsin's Green Bay six lingered into October (m.ob.). Tardy was one

that flew by the Cedar Grove Hawk Banding Station, WI Nov. 2 (DB). Minnesota had two that lingered until Aug. 22 in *Ramsey* (*fide* AH). Single imm. Little Blue Herons were present in *Cottonwood*, MN Aug. 14–Sept. 3 (ED *et al.*) and Wisconsin's Green Bay Aug. 10–early October (TE, DT *et al.*). A Tricolored Heron was present at Nyanquing, MI Aug. 3–19 (BA, JB). There were few Cattle Egret sightings. They lingered at their Green Bay, WI nesting site into October. Minnesota had three Aug. 19 in *Lac Qui Parle* (FE) and one in *Brown* Oct. 29 (BB). Black-crowned Night-Herons lingered into December at Milwaukee and Port Washington, WI (TU). Peters found a Glossy Ibis at the Shiawassee N.W.R., MI Aug. 18.

### Waterfowl to Cranes

The **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** found by Svingen Sept. 7 in *Roseau* represented Minnesota's 4th record. Tundra Swans were migrating through Wisconsin during early November as evidenced by 1542 over Cedar Grove Hawk Station Nov. 4 (DB). At Nyanquing Point W.A., MI, 2000 were present Nov. 12 (SR). Record early were two Greater White-fronted Geese in *Roseau*, MN Sept. 7 (PS). Ross' Geese were recorded in all 3 states. One was near Eau Claire, WI Oct. 16–22 (ph. JPO). In Michigan two were present Oct. 22–Nov. 10 at M.W.S. (Lbu). Two were discovered Nov. 12 at Allegan State Game Area, MI, and were joined by a 3rd Nov. 26 (TW, KM, SS, KT). For Minnesota, one was present in *Olmsted* during mid-November (CK). A Brant was at Tawas Point S.P., Nov. 2 (RP) and in *Muskegon* Nov. 20 (ES, GW), both Michigan. The Canada Goose peak in e.c. Wisconsin was smaller and earlier than last year, undoubtedly influenced by the early wintry weather. The peak at Horicon N.W.R. was 150,000 during mid-October (BV), with a maximum in e.c. Wisconsin of 352,000 during mid-November (BV). Despite the early cold weather, there was a surprising variety of ducks lingering into December in Wisconsin. Impressive was the *39,700* Ring-necked Ducks in *Becker*, MN Oct. 25 (BBE *et al.*). Exciting was J. Hansen's discovery of a ♀ **King Eider** in the Algoma harbor, WI Nov. 18. Fortunately it remained through Nov. 23. Single birds were observed by the W.P.B.O. staff Oct. 31 and Nov. 5. Harlequin Ducks appeared in all 3 states. For Michigan, three were at Arcadia Oct. 13 (BA), birds were at W.P.B.O., Oct. 2 and Nov. 4–5, and one at New Buffalo Nov. 26 (JG). Minnesota had Harlequin sightings in *Hennepin* Oct. 28 (TB) and *Lake*, with four Nov. 4+

(m.ob.). Wisconsin's contribution included single Harlequins at Manitowoc Oct. 29–31 (CS) and Milwaukee Nov. 8–24 (m.ob.). All 3 scoter species experienced one of the poorest flights in recent memory for the Region. Numbers were greatly reduced in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and most of Michigan. Only W.P.B.O. recorded any numbers, and they were lower by at least several hundred for each species compared to previous years: season totals of 98 Blacks, 1035 Surfs, and 2620 White-wingeds. The ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** returned to Wisconsin's Virmond Park, *Ozaukee*, in November, lingering into early December (v.o.). It again proved a challenge to find among the hundreds of Commons. One was shot by a

**Table 1. Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve Raptor Totals**

Turkey Vulture	955
Osprey	308
Bald Eagle	1953
N. Harrier	450
Sharp-shinned Hawk	17,897
Cooper's Hawk	121
N. Goshawk	362
Red-shouldered Hawk	7
Broad-winged Hawk	1,048
Swainson's Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	7520
Rough-legged Hawk	728
Golden Eagle	79
Am. Kestrel	1493
Merlin	303
Peregrine Falcon	45
Gyrfalcon	1

**Table 2. Lake Erie Metropark Raptor Totals**

Turkey Vulture	21,287
Peak Oct. 12	3594
Osprey	69
Bald Eagle	52
N. Harrier	515
Peak Sept. 9	116
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9566
Peak Sept. 11	1682
Cooper's Hawk	628
N. Goshawk	32
Red-shouldered Hawk	559
Broad-winged Hawk	234,533
Peak Sept. 18	114,850
Swainson's Hawk	6
Red-tailed Hawk	11,106
Peak Nov. 4	2492
Rough-legged Hawk	94
Golden Eagle	41
Am. Kestrel	2089
Peak Oct. 15	520
Merlin	83
Peregrine Falcon	67
Gyrfalcon	1

hunter in *Marathon*, WI Oct. 27 (*vide* LO). One Barrow's Goldeneye was seen in Minnesota's *Ramsey* by Bardon Nov. 29. Impressive numbers were noted for all 3 merganser species. Some 1800 Hoodeds were present in *Ramsey*, MN Nov. 4, while on the Minnesota side of L. Pepin 70,000 Commons were counted Nov. 26, also by Bardon. Uttech watched 1000s of Red-breasteds migrating by Harrington Beach S.P., WI Nov. 3.

The raptor flight was poor in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Numbers were down significantly for some species. Michigan had a better flight. See *Table 1 and 2*. The outstanding flight in Wisconsin occurred Oct. 14–15, especially along L. Michigan. This was evidenced by peaks of 2343 Sharp-shinneds at Cedar Grove Oct. 15 (DB), with 1949 at Concordia (*vide* BC); 38 Cooper's and 524 Red-taileds at Cedar Grove; and an unprecedented 479 Merlins passing by Concordia Oct. 14 (HC, BC *et al.*). Obviously this is a record Merlin flight for Wisconsin, as well as the Region.

Interesting observations included a Mississippi Kite observed by Bouton at Grand Rapids, MI Sept. 9. This represented the state's first fall and 10th overall sighting. Swainson's Hawks were seen in Wisconsin at the Little Suamico Hawk Station Oct. 12 (TE) and Concordia Oct. 15 (HC, RD).

An injured juv. Ferruginous Hawk found Aug. 15 in *Itasca*, MN (S&CM) later died. It had been banded nearly Rawlins, WY this past June. Very early was a Rough-legged Hawk at W.P.B.O., Aug. 14, and one in *Langlade*, WI was early Sept. 9 (BP). Golden Eagles were well distributed in the Region. Wisconsin had sightings in 4 counties, including 23 between Oct. 16–Nov. 14 at Eagle Valley (BM). Minnesota had 8 reporting counties, including an early individual Sept. 17 at Hawk Ridge (FN). Michigan had 9 reporting counties.

Gyrfalcons away from the hawk watch stations, all in Michigan, included sightings at M.W.S., Nov. 2 (ES, GW, JW), Allegan State Game Area Nov. 13 (KT), and Sault Ste. Marie Nov. 29 (WPO). The Prairie Falcon returned to the *Hennepin*, MN airport Oct. 9+ (TT *et al.*).

A Yellow Rail was seen by the W.P.B.O. staff Sept. 15. In Wisconsin, Mossman found one in *Grant* Sept. 27. An injured bird was brought to the rehab center in Milwaukee Oct. 2 (SD). The only substantial Sandhill Crane count was 900 Nov. 5 in *Walworth*, WI (PP).

### Shorebirds

The largest Am. Golden-Plover concentration was >150 in *Ozaukee*, WI Aug. 31

(TU). The only Piping Plover report was one at Estral Beach, MI Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (WPA, DO *et al.*). Several Killdeer lingered in Wisconsin until late November–early December. There was an unusually good Am. Avocet flight. Minnesota had five Aug. 10 in *Dakota* (KB). Michigan had 6 sightings that included the Erie Marsh Preserve Aug. 2 (TW); *Berrien* Aug. 2; Shiawassee N.W.R., Aug. 10 (DP); White L., Aug. 17; and two at Pequaming (JY *et al.*) and Estral Beach Sept. 28 (WP, DO *et al.*). Wisconsin avocet sightings all occurred late: seven in *Monroe* Oct. 12–14, at Manitowoc Oct. 24, and Milwaukee Oct. 25 (DT). Tardy Greater Yellowlegs included birds at the Potterville Waste Ponds, MI Nov. 6 (JBa) and two at Milwaukee Nov. 7–8 (DG, BBol). Also late were single Lesser Yellowlegs Nov. 2 at Crex Meadows W.A., WI (JHo) and the Erie Metropark (WP). Single Willets appeared in Madison, WI Aug. 9 (PH, EH) and in *Carver*, MN Aug. 26 (*vide* AH). Michigan sightings included two at P.M.S.G.A., Aug. 2 & 24 (WP), at M.W.S., Aug. 5 (EH *et al.*), and two at Nyanquing Aug. 3 (BA). A Whimbrel was at Two Rivers, WI Aug. 12 (DT). One was in Duluth, MN Aug. 22 (DBe). Four Whimbrels were noted at W.P.B.O. between Aug. 22–Sept. 6. Michigan found nine Hudsonian Godwits at 5 sites between Aug. 5–Oct. 1. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin had single sightings at Duluth and *Oconto*, respectively. In Wisconsin, Marbled Godwits were seen in *Oconto* Aug. 30 and Sept. 24 (J&KS). In Michigan single birds were at Nyanquing Aug. 3–6 (BA, KT), and at the Erie Marsh Preserve Aug. 15–19 (KT, CP, TW) and Sept. 27 (TW). Red Knots were found in all 3 states. Tardy Sanderlings included one in Minnesota's *Cook* Nov. 4–8 (m.ob.) and Silver Beach, MI Nov. 29 (RS). On Aug. 6 at the Erie Marsh Preserve, 746 Semipalmated Sandpipers were counted by Powell and Wells. Four W. Sandpipers appeared in both Wisconsin and Michigan. Tardy was a White-rumped Sandpiper Nov. 7 in *Brown*, MN (JS), but one was very late at Sheboygan, WI Nov. 23 (DT). There was an excellent Baird's Sandpiper flight in Michigan, including 152 counted by Granlund at M.W.S., Aug. 24. A Purple Sandpiper was found by Sontag in Sheboygan, WI Nov. 12. One was in Holland, MI Nov. 19–25 (BB, JG *et al.*). Curiously, the Buff-breasted Sandpiper flight peaked in late July, with >50 found in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Only a few individuals were recorded in all 3 states August–mid-September. A Ruff was observed by Hoelzel at Tawas Point S.P.,



**Half a continent away from its normal range was this Glaucous-winged Gull at Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 8, 1995. Photograph/Karl Bardon.**

MI Aug. 23. The Long-billed Dowitcher in Milwaukee Nov. 3 was very late (DG). Red-necked Phalaropes were reported only from Michigan. Always exciting was the Red Phalarope seen in New Buffalo Nov. 19 (SS).

### Jaegers to Terns

Fewer jaegers were observed this fall in comparison to last year. Again Michigan had the majority of sightings, with most occurring at W.P.B.O. Pomarine Jaegers were seen Sept. 4, 5, 19 & 26 (staff). Eleven Parasitics and six unidentified individuals were found between Aug. 28–Sept. 29 (staff). An additional unidentified bird was found at Good Harbor Bay, MI Aug. 2 (RB *et al.*). Minnesota had 5 sightings, Parasitics and unidentified, between Sept. 6–Oct. 14 at Duluth and along the L. Superior shoreline (m.ob.). Once again, Wisconsin had no sightings. Minnesota had an impressive Franklin's Gull flight in the Twin Cities, with 8000 counted Oct. 12 (KB). Several birds were found in 5 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin counties. Little Gulls were found in all 3 states. In Wisconsin five were seen in *Oneida* Aug. 9 (BF). For Michigan, one was at Grand Haven Sept. 30 (SM) and two at St. Joseph Nov. 12 (JG). Minnesota had an adult at Mille Lacs L. between Nov. 4–14 (BL, TT *et al.*). An ad. **Mew Gull** was found by Uttech at Port Washington, WI Nov. 22. Several Thayer's Gulls were present in all 3 states, with a record-tieing arrival in *Dakota*, MN Oct. 5 (KB). Iceland Gulls were found at Two Rivers Nov. 21 (DT) and Port Washington Nov. 24 (BG), both Wisconsin. In Minnesota, individuals were in *Wabasha* Nov. 26 and *Dakota* Nov. 29 (KB). All 3 states recorded Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Undoubtedly the same bird as previous years returned to the Middleton/Madison, WI lakes Oct.

4–Nov. 22 (SB, SRo, EH *et al.*). Three individuals were present mid-October+ on the Twin Cities lakes. For Michigan, single birds were noted at W.P.B.O., Aug. 9 (JG), M.W.S., Oct. 29–30 (LBu, FD, ES, GW), *Monroe* Nov. 5 (TW, PC), and at the Erie Metropark Nov. 12 (DO).

Something was happening with west coast gulls this fall. Not one, but two possible **Western Gulls** were found along Wisconsin's L. Michigan shoreline during November. The first was discovered by Idzikowski in Milwaukee Nov. 22. Photos were taken, but it is questionable whether they will be definitive. Unfortunately extensive searching the following day by many birders yielded nothing. Then Mueller found a different individual at Two Rivers Nov. 26. Once again efforts to relocate it later that and following days were unproductive. While at best both sightings could be added to the state's hypothetical list after records committee review, they are especially intriguing in light of the next record. A first for Minnesota, as well as the Region, was an ad. **Glaucous-winged Gull** discovered by Barton Oct. 19 at a Burnsville, MN landfill. It roosted on *Hennepin* lakes until mid-November. The bird was subsequently relocated in early December at Black Dog L., MN (m.ob.). Great Black-backed Gulls are becoming more regular in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Wisconsin had >10 along L. Michigan at various harbors commencing in mid-October. Minnesota had three along L. Superior during November. Michigan had the following Black-legged Kittwake sightings:

W.P.B.O., Oct. 30–31 (staff) and at Port Huron Nov. 8 (TW, PC, DS) and Nov. 23 (DO), St. Joseph Nov. 12 (JG), on the Saginaw R., Nov. 13 & 22 (RW), and at the Holloway Res., Nov. 26 (JB). Minnesota had two: at Duluth Sept. 16 (AH) and *Otter Tail* Nov. 12. The latter bird was found starving by hunters. It was rehabilitated with lots of minnow, antibiotics, and cod liver oil, and flown to the e. coast for release (*vide* SMi). The same 2 states also found Sabine's Gulls. For Minnesota, juveniles were seen at Agassiz N.W.R., Sept. 6 (PS, SB), *Roseau* Sept. 16 (PS), and Duluth Oct. 5–6 (MH *et al.*). All sightings in Michigan occurred at W.P.B.O., Sept. 10 & 20 and Nov. 5 (staff). An Arctic Tern was at W.P.B.O., Sept. 25 (staff). Very late was a Forster's Tern at the Erie Metropark Nov. 29 (SS).

### Doves to Woodpeckers

Risen's observation of a **Groove-billed Ani** in *Cook* Oct. 15 provided Minnesota with its 10th state record. It could not be relocated. There were only a few Snowy Owl reports from each state. There were eight N. Hawk Owl reports in Minnesota, a harbinger of what was to come in December. Most came from the n.e. section. Michigan had two, both in *Chippewa* (TW, WP). Wisconsin had an undocumented sighting in *Manitowac*. Signaling the beginning of a December invasion were at least 15 Great Gray Owls in Minnesota this fall. In Wisconsin a road-killed bird was found in *Rhineland* in early December (RE). Both Minnesota and Michigan found above-average numbers of



**Juvenile Sabine's Gull (above, with first-winter Bonaparte's Gull) at Warroad, Minnesota, September 16, 1995. Photograph/Peder Svingen.**

Short-eared Owls. **Boreal Owls** made news, particularly in Wisconsin. Two were banded at the Cedar Grove Station Nov. 21 & 24 (DB), the first there since 1962. For Minnesota, three were banded at Hawk Ridge in late October (*fide* KE), and one found dead near Two Harbors Oct. 16 (BY). Michigan's sightings all came from W.P.B.O., with an impressive 27 banded between Sept. 26–Oct. 31, including six Oct. 11. Impressive numbers of N. Saw-whet Owls were banded in 2 states. A record >1430 were banded at Hawk Ridge (DE), the previous high being 1102. At 3 n.e. Wisconsin banding stations a total of 883 were banded (J&KS, TE). Also in Wisconsin, 311 were banded at Woodland Dunes Nature Center (BBro), while 54 were banded at Cedar Grove Oct. 16 alone.

Ott watched >1000 Com. Nighthawks migrating in *Marathon*, WI Aug. 26. Erdman had 500 Chimney Swifts going to roost in a chimney in *Oconto*, WI Aug. 22. Hummingbirds made news in Wisconsin. Very late Ruby-throated were found in *Door* until Nov. 7 (*fide* R&CL) and in *Monona* until Nov. 25 (SRo). More outstanding was a ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** that appeared at hummingbird feeders in *Columbia*, WI between Aug. 1–4. It arrived during stormy weather, remaining until it cleared, when it briefly appeared at dawn Aug. 4, and then left. It was seen by several birders. A ♀ *Selasphorus* appeared at a Wauwatosa, WI feeder Oct. 15–Nov. 21. It was caught and rehabilitated at the Wisconsin Wildlife Rehab Center in Milwaukee until Dec. 4, when it was flown to a hummingbird rehabilitator in n. California for subsequent spring release. Photographs were taken, which may enable positive identification. The W.P.B.O. staff recorded 12 Black-backed Woodpeckers between Sept. 8–Oct. 26.

### Flycatchers to Shrikes

Tardy flycatchers included an E. Wood-pewee in *Hennepin*, MN Oct. 9 (TT); a banded Yellow-bellied at Metrobeach Metropark Oct. 30 (EC) represented a record Michigan departure date; a Sept. 2 Acadian in *Hennepin* (OJ) tied the latest Minnesota date; a Great Crested Flycatcher was in Dearborn, MI Oct. 15 (CP); and an E. Kingbird was reported in *Portage*, WI Sept. 20 (MB). There were several interesting sightings within the group, highlighted by the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at W.P.B.O., Oct. 26 (staff). This represents Michigan's 2nd record. Two W. Kingbirds appeared in Duluth during early September (AH, FN). One was in Ludington, MI Sept. 17 (RF). A Scissor-

tailed Flycatcher was observed by Egeland in *St. Louis*, MN Sept. 16. The W.P.B.O. staff saw single birds Oct. 4 & 26 for Michigan's 10th and 11th records. South of its normal range was a Com. Raven at Cedar Grove Nov. 8 (DB). Northeastern Minnesota had good numbers of Black-capped and Boreal chickadees migrating along the lakeshore. In Wisconsin and Michigan, Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared early and in excellent numbers. Many remained into winter, with several observers using the term invasion. Carolina Wrens were found in Wisconsin (six–eight) and Minnesota (two). A **Northern Wheatear** was found by Hamernick in Duluth Sept. 27, where it remained through Oct. 2, enabling many birders to enjoy it. This provided Minnesota's 2nd record, and the first confirmed by photograph. Michigan had its 7th wheatear record when one was photographed near Alpena Oct. 7 by Rogers. Mountain Bluebirds were found in *Clay*, MN Oct. 15 (CF) and two in *Dakota*, MN Nov. 6–8 (JBe *et al.*). Eight Townsend's Solitaires were seen in n.e. Minnesota, with birds in *Lake* Sept. 21 (DVe) and early in *St. Louis* Sept. 23 (AE). McKay watched one at Eagle Valley Nature Preserve, WI Oct. 11. Some areas in Minnesota and Michigan noted above-normal numbers of migrating Swainson's Thrushes. Late was a Wood Thrush at Estral Beach, MI Oct. 26 (WP). Minnesota had 13 Varied Thrushes, including an early arrival in *Martin* Oct. 26 (*fide* AH). Wisconsin had one–two birds by season's conclusion. The only N. Mockingbird was far north at Marquette, WI Oct. 25 (LT). Uttech watched >100 Am. Pipits on a field in *Ozaukee*, WI Oct. 31. Late was one in *Dane*, WI Nov. 12 (ST). Two **Sprague's Pipits** were reported from Michigan. One was at W.P.B.O., Oct. 29, and another at P.M.S.G.A. (no date, WP). These represented the 5th and 6th state records. Good numbers of Bohemian Waxwings were reported from the more n. areas of the Region. Both Michigan and Wisconsin noted above-average N. Shrike numbers. Loggerhead Shrikes were found in 4 Minnesota and 2 Michigan counties.

### Vireos to Finches

White-eyed Vireos were seen at the Sarrett Nature Center Oct. 6 (MW) and at Metrobeach Metropark, MI Oct. 8 (EC). Record-late was a Bell's Vireo in Oshkosh, WI Oct. 31 (PB). A Solitary Vireo in *Hennepin* Nov. 1 provided the 3rd latest date for Minnesota (SC). Two "Lawrence's" Warblers were seen: One was at the Little Suamic Banding Station, WI Sept. 1



**Northern Wheatear at Duluth, Minnesota, September 30, 1995. Photograph/Terry Brashear.**

(J&KS, TE), and the other at the W.P.B.O. Vermillion Station Sept. 29. Hundreds of Tennessee Warblers were migrating in *Kenabec*, MN Sept. 8 (CM). Very late, especially for the Upper Pen., was an individual at Copper Harbor Oct. 18 (LB). Nelson had >200 Nashville Warblers in *Itasca*, MN Sept. 6. A Cape May Warbler in *Lake*, MN Nov. 4 (KE) represented the 3rd latest date. Again this fall the Black-throated Blue Warbler flight in Minnesota was considered good, with a late individual in *Hennepin* Oct. 28 (JB, CF). However, remarkably late was one in Plainfield, MI Nov. 24–25 (SZ). The summer Yellow-throated Warbler remained through Aug. 5 in Sibley S.P., MN (SC). Prairie Warblers were observed at Federal Park, MI Aug. 20 (BA) and Estral Beach, MI Sept. 3 (WP). Very late was an Ovenbird at Jenison, MI Nov. 11–12 (LB). Record late was the Hooded Warbler in Minnesota's *Cook* Oct. 20 (KE). Very late was a Wilson's Warbler at Harrington Beach S.P., WI Oct. 26 (JPe). A Yellow-breasted Chat was present at W.P.B.O., Oct. 2.

A Summer Tanager in *Winona* between Nov. 9–25 represented Minnesota's 2nd-latest record (m.ob.). The 50 Dickcissels on an August day in Wisconsin's *Monroe* represented a remarkable concentration (DK). One at W.P.B.O., Sept. 26 was unusual. A Savannah Sparrow in *Cook* Nov. 15 (DB) was the latest date for n. Minnesota. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found at several Wisconsin and Minnesota sites. A Fox Sparrow lingered into December at Ashland, WI (DV). A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was present at W.P.B.O. between Oct. 26–31. Photographs were taken, providing Michigan with its 2nd record. The White-crowned Sparrow in

*Roseau*, MN Sept 6 represented the 2nd-earliest arrival date (PS) The Harris' Sparrow flight in Wisconsin was unusually poor The Smith's Longspur seen briefly by O'Brien and Hughes at Milwaukee Oct 14 represented about the 10th Wisconsin record. One was seen by the WPB O. staff Sept. 21. Several impressive Snow Bunting flocks were noted, including 2000 at M.W.S., Nov. 17 (JP, GW), and 1200 in *Clark*, WI Nov. 29. A Bobolink in Milwaukee Oct. 14 was late (JO) A Bullock's Oriole was seen and photographed in Roger's City, MI (BGr).

Fair to good numbers of most finch species were reported. This was especially true for redpolls, siskins, and both grosbeaks At least finches were being seen, which was in contrast to last year.

### Addendum

Minnesota recorded its 4th Green-tailed Towhee with one at a feeder near Ely Dec. 18, 1994.

### Corrigenda

For Minnesota, delete the Lesser Black-backed Gull in *Ramsey* Jan. 1, 1995, and Prairie Warbler in *Cook* Oct. 15, 1994. The Mississippi Kite seen in fall 1994 was in *Clay*, not *Carver* (B. Spencer Meeks). For Wisconsin, the King Eider seen in March 1995 was in *Door*, not *Dane*.

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# Middle-western Prairie Region

### KENNETH J. BROCK

The words phenomenal, remarkable, unprecedented, and impressive occur frequently in this report, suggesting that Middlewestern Prairie Region birders enjoyed a superlative autumn migration Overall, the migration was somewhat late, producing a plethora of late departure dates, especially for passerines. From a group perspective, grebes, geese, ducks, gulls, and sparrows were recorded in unusually high numbers. Species receiving notes of concern included Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Greater Yellowlegs, Purple Martin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Yellow-throated Vireo. These birds warrant close scrutiny in the future. Among the rarities, western passerines were unusually well represented.

The season's weather patterns provided few birding surprises. Even 1995's record hurricane season appeared to have little impact on migration, though possible hur-

